

the Dingell-Ganske Patients' Bill of Rights, has determined that the bill would cost beneficiaries only \$2 a month. That is right. For the cost of a Happy Meal at McDonald's, patients in managed care would have what they need: accountability; access to specialists; no gag rule on their providers; and a swift insurer appeals process.

It is the simple, most logical provision in the Patients' Bill of Rights because it puts the HMOs on the same level as every other industry in this country. They have to be accountable for their actions and their decisions. The bottom line is if you are making medical decisions, you should be held accountable. If you are not making medical decisions, you should not be accountable.

#### EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(Mr. ROGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President vetoed legislation allowing parents to create education savings accounts. These accounts would have given parents the ability to save for their children's education and use these savings for books, tutors or to choose which school educates their children. Why? Why did he do this? Because Washington insiders still think they know how to educate children, better than the parents of the child.

You see, freedom of choice in education threatens the special interests who are allowed to deliver an inferior product year after year with absolutely no accountability. These education savings accounts the President vetoed would have benefited poor families and middle-class families; they would have benefited all families in this country. Anything that helps children in this fashion deserves to be the law of the land. I deeply regret both the President's action, as well as his priorities.

#### MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, the 73 percent of Americans presently covered by managed care plans in this country know it is time for a Patients' Bill of Rights. The over 200,000 West Virginians covered alone under HMOs, health maintenance organizations, know it is time for a patient protection act. It is important to outlaw the gag rules. It is important to permit quick appeals, to permit seeing specialists, but it is also important to do something else, and that is to bring enforceability and accountability.

Right now the insurance companies who make the basic decisions are not being held accountable. A doctor, say, may order a CAT scan thinking it is necessary for the patient. The insur-

ance company overrides that decision. The illness goes undiagnosed. Who is held responsible? The doctor who knew that the CAT scan was necessary can be held responsible, but not the insurance company.

That is why this has to change. Those who profit from making health care decisions, the insurance companies, the managed care plans, those who profit from making these basic health care decisions must also be held accountable for their patient care decisions. That is why we support the Dingell-Ganske Bill of Rights.

#### CHINA'S MISSILE ARSENAL

(Mr. RYUN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN. Mr. Speaker, Pentagon intelligence officials are reporting that communist China will add eight ICBM missiles to its arsenal. That is in addition to the 13 nuclear missiles that it already has pointed at American citizens.

This weekend the President said that he would veto the defense bill over a House provision blocking the transfer of missile technology to China.

Mr. President, exactly whose side are you on? China is not a friendly ally. It aggressively builds nuclear missiles and aims them at American children. What is the Commander in Chief's response? Will he build a missile defense system? No. He vetoed that legislation 3 years ago.

The President has no response to the news that China is building more, not less, nuclear missiles to aim at American children. Instead, he has threatened to veto the only legislation that attempts to stem the flow of technology between the Clinton White House and Beijing.

Mr. President, shame on you. I yield back my time and any missile technology secrets that the administration cares to keep from the communists.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is reminded, as are all Members in the Chamber, that remarks should be directed to the Chair and not to the President, personally.

#### AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the World Bank makes loans to communists with American dollars. The World Trade Organization regularly rips us off. The United Nations sends American troops into war. That is right. We are not sending the Peace Corps here, folks.

If that is not enough to compromise your Viagra, the United Nations has created a world court with universal authority and jurisdiction. Unbelievable. What is next, a world tax? Beam me up.

I say the Constitution of the United States should not be surrendered to a bunch of international bureaucrats who regularly rule against us, ladies and gentlemen.

Now, I do not know about you, but I did not pledge an oath to the charter of the United Nations. I pledged an oath to the Constitution of the United States and I think the Congress of the United States should put its foot down before we become known as background music in some doctor's office. I yield back any courage we have left.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMISM PERPETUATES WILDFIRE

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the tug of war between the common sense of ordinary people and the nonsense of government bureaucracy continues. Recently a wildland fire started in my district and has continued to burn unabated for the last 3 days. This fire could have been put out in its very early stages only if Secretary Babbitt would have just let the firefighters do their jobs.

The fire started in not a wilderness area but a wilderness study area and since mechanical vehicles are not allowed in the so-called study area, firefighters must carry their equipment 2½ miles just to reach the flames. Not only that, 12 planeloads of fire retardant have been dropped which have cost the taxpayers \$60,000, to no avail.

This environmental extremism has allowed the fire to burn nearly 1,000 acres, and that is strange since firefighters believe they could have put the fire out on the first night had they been able to use their mobile equipment.

The lack of common sense and the bogus government extremism are wasting taxpayer dollars. This could threaten our land and destroy human lives in the process.

Let us pray that this government nonsense does not get out of hand, destroy lives, homes and create a truly desolate America.

#### MANAGED CARE REFORM

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, the Republican leadership has finally agreed to bring a managed care reform bill to the floor. Unfortunately the GOP proposal is so watered down that it could have been written by the insurance industry itself. It should be called the Profit Protection Act.